

Summary/Final Minutes – Work Session – February 21, 2013

Savannah City Government SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES MAYOR AND ALDERMEN WORK SESSION February 21, 2013 – 10:00 am

PRESENT: Mayor Edna B. Jackson, Presiding
Alderman Van R. Johnson, II Mayor Pro-tem (arrived at 11 a.m.)
Aldermen Tony Thomas, Chairman of Council
Alderman Mary Osborne, Vice-Chairman of Council
Aldermen John Hall, Carol Bell, Alderman Mary Ellen Sprague
Tom Bordeaux and Estella Shabazz

Acting City Manager Stephanie S. Cutter
City Attorney W. Brooks Stillwell

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Coastal Workforce Services Program Overview

Cindy Landolt, Executive Director of Coastal Workforce Services and Mark Corrigan, Board Chair from the Coastal Workforce Investment Board gave a presentation on the history and structure of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and reviewed WIA-funded services throughout the Coastal region. The WIA consolidates, coordinates and improves employment, training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States and for other purposes. It was signed by President Clinton on August 7, 1998, was implemented in Georgia in 2000 as Public Law 105-220, and provides funding. WIA's goals are to improve the quality of the workforce, enhance the productivity of the nation and reduce welfare dependency. Ms. Landolt provided an historical overview of the Coastal Region which was created as one of 20 designated areas in Georgia and tasked with structuring a One Stop Workforce Development System throughout the nine counties of Bryan, Bullock, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long and McIntosh; it is also region-centric.

Mr. Corrigan described the WIA in our area and its entities which are the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOS), the Coastal Workforce Investment Board (CWIB), the City of Savannah (COS), and Coastal Workforce Services (CWS). The CLEOS assist with the designation of a geographical area for service delivery, shall serve as the local grant recipient or designate an entity for this purpose and are liable for any misuse of the funds. The City of Savannah was selected as the grant recipient for the Coastal Region by a consortium of local elected officials. Additionally, CLEOS appoint members to the CWIB who serve as proxies and these appointments must be in compliance with the composition requirement in the WIA. Private sector representatives should encompass at least 51 percent of the total membership with the balance coming from public sector entities that include local education groups, labor and community-based organizations, economic development agencies, and One-Stop partners.

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The CWIB consists of 42 members that represent the nine counties in the Coastal Region and makes policy. It has a member elected Chair and Vice-Chair and has an Executive Committee, Youth Council and various goal-focused ad hoc committees. CWS is a department with the Savannah's Bureau of Community and Economic Development; it implements policy and administers the grant. It is totally grant-funded, and although some General Funds are used for the YouthBuild Program, none are used for the WIA program. It utilizes the City infrastructure for human resources, finance, information technology, etc. and its major functions are federal grant administration and monitoring. Alderman Sprague asked if Ms. Landolt was a City employee, and she stated that although they are considered City employees they are actually grant-interim employees so if the grant goes away so do their jobs since the program is totally grant-funded. The COS processes paperwork, provides other business services and acts as the fiscal agent for the receipt and disbursement of all WIA and other awarded funds. Alderman Sprague asked how the funds are distributed and who makes the determination. Ms. Landolt stated that it is managed by them, there is a formula in place that is used to distribute funds, but it was not state or federally mandated and how to divide the funds was the Board's decision.

Alderman Osborne asked for a copy of the breakdown of categories and also inquired about workforce development numbers for Pooler. WIA funds are allocated by the federal government to the states, then to the local areas, and are categorized into three separate branches designed for adults, dislocated workers and youth. Alderman Shabazz inquired about the number of full-time one stop centers. The nine county region has 12 One-Stop Centers with five operating on a full-time basis and one that is part-time. These centers have three levels consisting of core, intensive and training services. Core services, available to anyone, include intake, orientation, job search and placement assistance. Intensive services are offered to employed, unemployed and dislocated workers who have received at least one core service. Training services, the highest level possible, is open to eligible participants who meet the requirements.

Sharon Morgan, Assistant Director of Coastal Workforce Services, presented an overview of the Youth Services program which is funded by WIA and are provided by competitively procured contractors. The two current providers in Chatham are Paxen, located in the Abercorn Professional Building on Abercorn Street and the Savannah Impact Program (SIP) located on Drayton Street; both are in the city of Savannah. The age span for Paxen is 17-21 years; SIP handles at-risk and high risk individuals from 14-21 years of age which is one of the eligibility requirements for Youth Services. Alderman Hall asked about job training and retention. The Mayor also inquired about job training, job banks and asked if there was any conflict resolution for job seekers that may encounter supervisory or transportation issues. Ms. Morgan stated that there is staff located at the centers to work one-on-one with those in need of this type of assistance.

Stephanie S. Cutter, Acting City Manager, asked Ms. Landolt to elaborate on JCB's collaboration with WIA. Ms. Landolt stated that initially JCB wanted a long-term program but they worked out an effective partnership with JCB and Savannah Tech for training purposes and meeting their performance measures. She then mentioned Helmets to Hardhats which is a retraining program for veterans that help them get welding certification through an alliance with union representatives. The Mayor commented on the work with unions, especially in the Hinesville area and wondered if the various job seekers were tracked by WIA. Alderman Bell asked if case managers were responsible for tracking participants, and Ms. Landolt stated that

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case managers do track retention rates for a year, and follow-up numbers are documented (quarterly) each year as well.

Individuals also have to be low-income and have one or more of the following employment barriers: 1) deficient in basic literacy skills; 2) school drop-out; 3) homeless, runaway or foster child; 4) pregnant or parenting; 5) offender, or 6) requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment. The 10 program elements of Youth Services are 1) occupational skills training; 2) educational guidance such as tutoring and drop-out prevention activities; 3) summer employment opportunities (currently no funding); 4) alternative secondary school services; 5) paid and unpaid work experience (GED services); 6) leadership development activities; 7) support services; 8) adult mentoring; 9) follow-up services and 10) comprehensive guidance and counseling. Alderman Hall asked for an explanation of “runaway” and Ms. Morgan explained that some children run away from home, but others are actually put out by their parents and are in need of their services. The ten elements, used to design the youth program, make objective assessments of the academic and occupational skill levels and service needs. Additionally, they are used for individual service strategies identifying age-appropriate career goals and also to prepare for post-secondary education opportunities and/or employment.

Ms. Landolt provided graphs showing CWIB funding, number of adults, dislocated workers and youth participants from 2011-2012, and tables listing the participants’ performance for Program Year 2011 and first quarter Program Year 2012. Alderman Thomas asked how much money goes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Ms. Landolt’s answer was none. Alderman Sprague asked Ms. Landolt using their formula how much money does Chatham County get versus the other areas, and she stated that it fluctuates annually but Chatham usually accounts for 40-50 percent of the money that comes to the region. Alderman Sprague then asked for demographic data for the region, Alderman Shabazz inquired about the analysis between race and gender; and the Mayor asked for a breakdown of the 16-25 age range that WIA is serving; Ms. Landolt will get all information to Council. There was further discussion on youth summer programs and how they should be aligned with WIA and changes in their organizational structure which will get sent to Ms. Cutter. Alderman Bell also briefly described an NLC program for black males and will email additional information to Ms. Cutter for City submittal. The presentation concluded with a description of the top five programs of study listed as registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, commercial truck driver, radiological tech and early childhood education.

Policing Strategies Update

Police Chief Willie Lovett provided an update on changes already made and different tactics the department has carried out and Precinct Commanders expounded on their basic policing strategies for 2013. He first introduced Captain Philip Reilley of West Chatham Precinct which includes 46 neighborhoods and encompasses a large part of the unincorporated areas of Chatham County. He described West Chatham strategies as continuing to integrate COMPSTAT statistics into daily planning, expanding the role of the Crime Prevention Officer to network with other precincts, beat officers and the community, providing community groups with accurate crime information, attacking street-level crimes with hot spot policing, and continuing to coordinate efforts with SIP. They also plan to reduce their response times by staggering shifts, will contact

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all victims within 24 hours to provide the investigation status, conduct periodic warrant sweeps and meet quarterly with all community groups. The Mayor requested a copy of the slide presentation which Chief Lovett will provide so copies can be made for Council.

Captain Mike Wilkins of the Downtown Precinct outlined the boundaries of the downtown area by Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 and listed their respective neighborhood groups that are active. He also discussed their operational realities stating there are no cookie cutter solutions as each neighborhood has its own set of issues, they must constantly adapt strategies to adhere to continuously changing crime patterns, and they receive far more complaints about 'quality of life' crimes over other crimes. Some strategies they will continue to use in 2013 are community meetings, relationship building operations, neighborhood specific tactical operations, complaint specific operations, increased police visibility (i.e. walking beats, bicycles) and hotspot and predictive policing. They will also regularly assess emerging trends making operational changes as needed, will focus on prolific offenders, and will engage young people before they become ensnared in the criminal justice system.

Alderman Osborne asked how they engage the youth to trust and work with them, and he stated that they have dedicated officers that go into the schools and communities to interact and build relationships with the kids. Alderman Johnson asked if they still fund the PALS program and Alderman Hall stated that some of the funds come from the City but most of it comes from the Police Department for items like equipment. Alderman Osborne inquired about camera usage throughout the City and specifically on the eastside. Captain Wilkins responded that several cameras are used in the downtown district and not many outside that core area, but there are five cameras on the eastside. Alderman Hall asked what is typically considered a hotspot and he responded that locations where crimes occur more than once become a hotspot.

Captain DeVonn Adams of the Central Precinct stated that his district is bordered by Aldermanic Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5 and they use the holistic approach. They have 24 neighborhoods that encompass six police patrol beats and four Aldermanic districts. These neighborhoods have very different policing concerns ranging from very violent crimes to quality of life issues. They also have a large juvenile population, constantly changing crime patterns, and the largest number of legal and illegal rooming houses. They embrace the philosophy of 'Community First' with initiatives like Roll Call in the Street, All Hands on Deck and Week of the Young Child. Another strategy they utilize is the smart policing approach by solid collaborations with Savannah Impact Program, the Board of Education, Property Maintenance, Dept. of Revenue and Code Enforcement along with SCMPD Special Operations. Additionally, they deploy officers based on daily crime reports and identify high risk areas and offenders. Alderman Johnson asked if there had been any discussion on remapping the districts, and Chief Lovett stated yes they are considering reconfiguring the districts for various reasons.

Captain Dean Fagerstrom of the Southside Precinct said his district has 32 neighborhoods, six patrol beats, has a total area of 28.67 miles, and a population of approximately 51,000 which does not include people that commute to their district daily. They believe that crime prevention starts at home and their citizen-police strategies include initiating crime prevention by maintaining buildings and the surrounding landscape, becoming security cautious, getting acquainted with neighbors, getting involved with neighborhood association, supporting community renewal efforts, and reporting any illegal or suspicious activity. They also meet

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every morning to discuss hotspots, accurate and timely intelligence, effective tactics, rapid responses, and follow-up and assessment.

Captain John Best of the Islands Precinct stated that his district runs west from Tybee Island all the way to the southeast part of Chatham County and comprises approximately 50 neighborhoods. Their strategies for 2013 include special operations, crime prevention, effective follow-up procedures, and utilizing a viable communication stream. They also focus specifically on juveniles for implementing crime prevention measures. Alderman Thomas inquired about the hundreds of cold cases and asked if there was a group dedicated to solving them. Chief Lovett emphasized that the cold cases do not number in the hundreds, and the initial officer(s) assigned to the case remain the key investigator throughout the duration and until they are resolved. Alderman Thomas inquired about the actual number of these cases and Chief Lovett stated the research has been completed and he will send him the data after it is compiled.

At the conclusion, Terry Enoch of Savannah Impact Program (SIP) briefly discussed various action items carried out at SIP and presented prison population data pertinent to crime prevention strategies for the city of Savannah. Alderman Bell asked what proactive measures they are taking to address the large number of parolees, those on probation, and the issues with housing and jobs. Mr. Enoch stated that they partner with reentry agencies, Pardons and Parole, and the Georgia Department of Corrections to address the problem with repeat offenders as they realize that group is responsible for the majority of crimes in the community.

Boards, Commissions & Authorities

Council reviewed applications and made recommendations for appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Authorities.

Council broke for lunch

Acting City Manager Stephanie Cutter presented the City Manager's Briefing of the agenda items for the Council Meeting of February 21, 2013. The agenda is attached and made a part of the permanent record.

Mayor Jackson adjourned this meeting.



Dyanne C. Reese, MMC, Clerk of Council